

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 20 and 21 as shown below. Please cancel claim 22.

A clean version of the entire set of pending claims follows per 37 CFR § 1.121(c)(3). A marked-up copy of the claim(s) changed by this amendment, showing all changes made relative to the previous version of the claim(s), accompanies this paper on a separate sheet or sheets.

14. A method of forming instructions for execution in a processing system, said method comprising:

providing an opcode portion determining at least one instruction to be performed by the processing system; and

providing a first parameter byte including a first set of data value bits, and a first expansion bit indicative of whether the processing system expands the first set of data value bits or reads any additional parameter bytes including additional sets of data value bits.

15. The method of claim 14, wherein said first byte further has a sign bit indicative of whether the first set of data value bits represents a positive number or a negative number.

16. The method of claim 14, further comprising

providing a second parameter byte including a second set of data value bits, and a second expansion bit indicative of whether the processing system expands the second set of data value bits or reads any additional parameter bytes including additional sets of data value bits.

17. The method of claim 16, wherein said first byte further has a sign bit indicative of whether the first set of data value bits and the second set of data value bits collectively represent a positive number or a negative number.

18. The method of claim 16, further comprising
providing a third parameter byte including a third set of data value bits,
and a third expansion bit indicative of whether the processing system expands the third set of data value bits or reads any additional parameter bytes including additional sets of data value bits.

19. The method of claim 18, wherein said first byte further has a sign bit indicative of whether the first set of data value bits, the second set of data value bits and the third set of data value bits collectively represent a positive number or a negative number.

20. (Amended) A method of forming instructions for execution in a processing system, said method comprising:

providing an opcode portion determining at least one instruction to be performed by the processing system; and

providing a parameter portion including a plurality of data value bits, a first indicator representative of a number of the plurality of data value bits, and a second indicator representative of whether to expand the plurality of data value bits.

21. (Amended) A method of forming instructions for execution in a processing system, said method comprising:
- providing an opcode portion determining at least one instruction to be performed by the processing system; and
 - providing a parameter portion including a plurality of data value bits, a first indicator representative a number of bytes in the parameter portion, and a second indicator representative of whether to expand the plurality of data value bits.
23. The method of claim 20 or 21, wherein the parameter portions further includes a second indicator representative of whether the plurality of data value bits represent a positive number or a negative number.
24. The method of claim 20 or 21, wherein the opcode portion defines a number of parameters in the parameter portion.
25. The method of claim 20 or 21, wherein the opcode portion defines an uncompressed length of the plurality of data value bits.
26. The method of claim 20 or 21,
- wherein the parameter portion includes a plurality of parameter bytes; and
 - wherein the opcode portion determines an order of arrangement of the plurality of parameter bytes.